which occur in the catalogue: it is to be hoped they will be rectified in the next edition.

Edward Hall, whose writings have appeared in our journal on several occasions, exhibits a design for a Gothic House, 1142.

Wigg and Pownall, in 1167, give a design submitted for the Somerset County Lunatic Asylum; the plan forms three sides of a square, the character Elizabethan.

1178 and 1196, by W. H. Brakspear, are drawings for the Chapels at Nunhead Cemetery, which were submitted in competition, and obtained the second premium. They are exceedingly good designs. This same gentleman exhibits a very beautiful view of the Parker Monument, in Paignton Church, Torbay, 1214, perhaps the finest drawing in the collection.

L. N. Cottingham and Son give a view of the Church of St. Helen, in the course of erection at Thorney, 1179. A plain Norman structure, with bell tower at the west end, and the right character all over it.

D. Mocatta exhibits an interior view of Messrs. Williams and Sowerby's new showroom, in Oxford-street, No. 1184; novel and tasteful.

F. E. Fowler's Villa at Greenhall (1198) has much propriety.

Mr. W. H. Leeds, who is better known to the architectural public by his writings than his drawings, exhibits two designs, No. 1204, Architectural Innovation, and No. 1205, Study for the façade of a small palazzo, both deserving consideration.

J. M. Derick's Design for the Choristers' School and Master's buildings at Magdalen College, Oxford, looks as if it were an original part of the reverend city—no mean praise. Much was said at the time about certain departures from the regulations in favour of Mr. Derick, which, if true, nothing can justify; certain it is, however, that so far as external appearance is concerned, the committee have chosen a very excellent design. No. 1291, by the same architect, Interior of an Anglican Church, now in course of erection, displays polychromatic decorations, stained glass, and other adornments to a considerable extent.

E. B. Lamb has several very clever works, 1229, 1242, 1256, and 1259. His design for the Choristers' School, Oxford, 1256, is very excellent.

W. A. Papworth shews considerable ability in 1236, Arch of Peace and Plenty, designed for erection at the north end of the broad walk of Kensington Gardens.

W. Railton exhibits among other drawings, an Elizabethan mansion, erecting for William Herrick, Esq., Beau Manor Park, Leicestershire, 1260; and A. F. Ashton, a design for a public institution, which has several points of merit.

H. Clutton, in 1264, a design for a Cemetery Chapel, adopts a Chapter House for his model very successfully.

NEW CHURCHES AND THE OFFICIAL REFEREES.

Sir,—I beg to call the attention of the architectural profession, through the medium of your valuable journal, to the working of the new Metropolitan Buildings Act as regards the erection of buildings of the third, or public building class, especially churches.

By clause 6, these buildings are placed under the special supervision of the official referees as well as the district surveyor, and by clause 15, the official referees are required, on notice, to make a survey of the buildings when the carcass is erected, and *then* to order any works which they may deem requisite to add security to the edifice.

By clause 16, it is required that plans, elevations, &c., of all buildings comprised in schedule B (which does not include churches) should be submitted to the referees previous to the commencement of the works, and as this course is not prescribed for buildings generally of the third class, it might be presumed, that in this latter case, the Act does not make it imperative so to do. From a communication, however, which I have received from the registrar, it appears that the official referees apprehend, from the clause in schedule C, part 5, placing the walls and other construction of buildings of this class under their special approval, it becomes "practically necessary" to submit the designs to them in the first instance.

I am certainly inclined to take this view myself of the operation of the Act, and however irksome it may be to architects to submit their drawings to other gentlemen, whose experience and practice may not perhaps be superior to their own, yet as the legislature has thought proper to give them the power to prevent a building being used, it would be hazardous to erect a structure without ascertaining their opinions previously. But the point which I wish to discuss is the manner in which this controlling power is worked out, and the effect which it will produce. The system at present adopted by the referees is this: the architect sends them his design, the referees require alterations or not as they deem proper, they then take copies and lithograph them, issue these lithographic copies to the architect and district surveyor with their seal affixed, and in an instance, which has occurred to myself, refuse to deliver up the original drawings. A charge is also made to the party for taking these copies, as also for the correspondence.

It will immediately occur to all professional gentlemen that there is much which is highly objectionable in these proceedings. To say nothing on the minor points of charge, &c., can it be possible that the enactments of the Act make it legal for the referees to *print and publish* the designs of an architect, whereby his copyright is infringed? or what clause authorizes them to take copies of drawings, and charge for so doing?

The Act is sufficiently stringent to cause much annoyance to practitioners, and it behoves the profession to guard against its provisions being stretched one inch beyond their bounds. The course, I apprehend, which the fair construction of the Act requires, and the least objectionable one to the profession, would be to submit the designs, and receive them back again with such remarks as the referees might think proper; they would still have the opportunity of seeing, during the progress of the building, if their remarks had been attended to, and full power of enforcing them afterwards. This appears to have been the intention of the legislature, but by the present system, it seems to be the object to prevent the architect exercising any judgment during the progress of the works, while an inquisitorial power is obtained over the works and designs of the profession.

This also suggests another point connected with the subject. Do the official referees, by their sanction and required alterations, take the responsibility of the building upon themselves, and is the architect relieved thereby? In an instance which occurred under the Commissioners for Building New Churches, who had sanctioned and sealed the design, this was held, I am informed, to be the case; and on the failure of the roof at the Lower Norwood Church, the expense of reinstatement was defrayed by them.

Is it not evident that the fear of this responsibility, with persons who have nothing to gain in reputation by bold and skilful construction, will induce a humdrum tame style of execution in our public works? they will naturally be inclined to reject the untried and novel, and to rest satisfied with the old and safely common-place. That this is no imaginary result may be shewn by the architectural canons at one time issued by the Commissioners for Building New Churches, one of which enfgreed that no roof would be allowed to be executed without a tie-beam! — How many Gothic churches were disfigured before they learned that it was absurd thus to limit constructive science!

The proceedings above suggested would I imagine, obviate all these difficulties. The official referees would obtain sufficient previous control to prevent any improperly constructed building being attempted without obstructing the architect in the free exercise of his science and knowledge; the responsibility of the construction would remain with him, and not with the referees, while the security of the public would be guaranteed by the survey of the referees on completion of the carcass, when any new mode of construction could be fairly tested by them, and they themselves be relieved from the liability of sanctioning or rejecting an architect's design. I believe this will be found to be in the spirit of the Act, and indeed its letter.

I hope it is needless for me to disclaim all imputation upon the abilities of the present referees, their characters stand too high to be affected either by my praise or censure. My objection is against the *system*, and not the individuals; this is a fair subject of discussion, and you must yourself, Mr. Editor, be aware that there is a strong under-current of dissatisfaction among the profession on many other points, which alone would render it advisable to avoid hurting the feelings of experienced professionals by compelling them on every design which they elaborate to undergo the ordeal of schoolboy examination.

As this is an important public subject, I shall not screen myself by an anonymous signature, but subscribe myself, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Thomas Little.

36, Northumberland-street, New-road.

REVIVAL OF THE CAMBRIDGE CAMDEN SOCIETY.

The sixth annual meeting of the Cambridge Camden Society, about which so much has been said in consequence of the proposal of the committee to dissolve the association, was held on the 8th inst. The main business of the evening was to ascertain the general sentiments of the members as to the proposed dissolution, as shewn by the voting papers which had been transmitted to every member who could be reached by post, with a request that they might be returned by the 6th of May. A large number of the papers were returned, but the president announced that if any gentlemen present had not sent in their votes and desired to do so, the committee would receive them now. A considerable number of voting papers were consequently laid upon the table. The president then announced that the numbers received before that evening were

Assents to the proposed dissolution	105
Dissents from	245

To these were to be added the numbers delivered this evening —

Assents	4
Dissents	26

Making the aggregate

Against the dissolution	271
For	109
Majority	162*

From the financial, statements it appeared that the society had a balance of about 600*l.* in hand. The report contained intimation, amongst other matters, that "a member of the society, who has departed this life since the last anniversary, bequeathed the sum of 6,000*l.* to be expended by the society in the building and restoration of churches. The employment of this legacy according to the wishes of the testator will form a subject of great importance to the new committee:" and it concluded thus:—

"The committee have already given full notice, by addressing a circular to every member, of the circumstances which compelled them to withdraw their proposed recommendation of the dissolution of the society. They also issued at the same time voting papers in order to ascertain the general sense of the members with respect to the expediency of attempting to accomplish a dissolution in the way indicated by the council. In answer, they have received the written votes of about half the members of the society, which give the proportion of above two to one against the proposition; while a very large number of the minority accompanied their votes with the intimation that they assented to the proposition, against their own wishes, merely in order to support what they supposed to be the wish of the committee.

"This result has shewn satisfactorily to the committee, that the great majority of the members are averse to the stopping at this time of the society's labours. Very many also have expressed in their correspondence an earnest wish that the affairs of the society may be conducted on the same principles as have been hitherto maintained.

"These considerations have induced the committee to believe that it is their duty as the present executive of the society, to offer to the meeting this evening a scheme by which, in

* It has been stated since by the president that the committee held at their disposal 199 (ascertained) proxies.

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